

**Unit 18 – Christian, Macoupin, Montgomery & Jersey Counties**  
**Thursday, December 15, 2022**  
**Business Meeting Agenda**

**Call to Order** – Moe Bruns called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

**Welcome and Introductions** –

Those in attendance from Extension Council: Connie Beck, Mo Bruns, Tiffany Blasa, Mark Dugger, Caleb Grover, Vicki Joiner, Dennis Rahe, and Terry Trader. Staff in attendance: Lisa Peterson, Sara Marten, and Amanda Cole.

**Minutes past meetings**

No additions or corrections of March 2021 minutes.  
Correct the spelling of Moe’s name in the October minutes  
Dennis Rahe motions to approve the minutes as presented. Terry seconds the motion. No discussion. Motioned passed.

**Fiscal Report** – FY23, October and November Trust and Revolving Reports

4-H State Fair checks were written and signed and mailed on 12/16/2022  
Based on staff traveling for programming, the travel budget has been charged out of revolving, not trust. The Macoupin County Board Meeting went well and kept the levy amount the same. No questions about the revolving account. Connie Beck moved to place fiscal reports on file. Dennis Rahe seconds the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

**Old Business Items** –

• **Staffing Updates**

◦ **CED Educator, applications close December 8-**We have been buying 20% of Jennifer Russell’s time. Applications closed last week for the new position. Three applicants. Interviews January 10, 2023. Amanda hopes to have a decision by mid-January and hire someone by early Feb. 2023.

◦ **EPC, 4-H, Christian County, applications close December 15-**

The transition of the Christian County program coordinator to the Montgomery coordinator. Application closed today. Amanda will select a search committee and hopes to fill it by late Winter or early Spring.

◦ **Other-**No other positions or updates. Working on confirming Summer Extra help and potentially two college students who need internship hours.

• **Needs Assessment Follow-up**

Lisa Peterson led the project, we did over 100 surveys and interviews. Lisa provided more insights on how organizations are willing to partner with us to help us reach our goals. This provided us a backbone for why we do what we do.

◦ **Top 4 Priorities for 2022-2025**

- Thriving Youth- Sara Marten will lead this with her 4-H program coordinator team. The staff better defined what this looks like and the human capital constraints.
- Workforce Preparedness/Advancement-All staff fit into this. This will be led more by the CED educator. We aren't replacing what community colleges do, but more about what we can do to support them.
- Chronic Disease Prevention and Management-Lisa Peterson will lead the charge on this.
- Social and Emotion Health-Not a dedicated staff member, but rather multiple staff who work in this. We are working more on building capacity, such as helping with grants. We are doing telemedicine sites through SIU medicine. We are hosting a location in Montgomery County.

- **Other**-No other old business

**New Business Items –**

- **Amanda Cole is back full time as County Director for unit 18, as of 12/01/2022**
- **Lisa Peterson is back full time as unit Nutrition and Wellness Educator as of 12/01/2022**
- **2022-2025 Unit Plan of Work** –Amanda asked for input from the council about the top four priorities. Reach out to the Montgomery County Health Department to talk about how we can collaborate in the future. Lisa will reach out and potentially grow together. Tiffany mentioned the job development center and the potential for the new CED educator to work together, such as in resume writing or interviews. Sara has taught Welcome to the Real World about the workforce, and Lisa teaches a Certified Food Protection Managers course. There is plenty of cross-disciplinary opportunities and finding ways Extension fits. Dennis mentioned working with community colleges and building some working relationships. Sara did a program with college 101 with the campus college of ACES via zoom. College kids served on a panel and answered questions. Sara has a model we can grow from. Sara mentioned college and career exploration trips. Lisa mentioned that the state nutrition team is working on reaching college kids learning how to make healthy choices now they are on their own. Tiffany mentioned that her husband is a social worker for restorative solutions in Jerseyville and potentially partnering on developing programming with social and emotional health. Moe mentioned potentially partnering with Pana Pride or Pana Community Mission to partner on programming. Amanda mentioned the Mythical Mississippi project that Pana Pride helped promote.
- **DEI Representation and Programming Goals Shared for 2022-2023**- Amanda reviewed each of the staff members' DEI goals. This information is all available on the website in the three year Unit plan of work.
- **Community Partner Award Application 2023 – action required**-Same award application as the last two years. No additional work by the council members, but they are welcome to help solicit applicants. This will be the fourth year of awards and a way to recognize our local partners. Connie Beck motions to use the community award application as is, Terry Trader seconds the motion. No discussion. Motion Passed. January 3, 2023, staff will begin submitting

applications.

• **Other**-A discussion about using the Macoupin County 4-H building at the Fair. There was a preference to keep the show at the 4-H building, and council members are happy to support the program to be out at the fair. It's also an opportunity to share Extension's programming at the fair. Amanda shared the history of the shows being held offsite due to mask and size requirements. Plans for 2023 are underway with the full return to normal post-pandemic. Each of our counties does this differently. After each fair, a survey is done to get input from the families. 4-H is trying to plan to have everything at the fairground in Macoupin County in 2023. Hoping for food, clothing, and crops later in June. Council members provide great input on local connections and help support Extension in the community. 4-H is currently in planning mode for the 2023 fair season.

**Staff Program Reports –**

Amanda will share reports from 4-H, Nutrition and Wellness, and Horticulture post-meeting.  
*Special Guest:* Sara Lynn Joiner shared what 4-H Congress was like and her experiences.

**Next Meetings –**

**Thursday, March 16, Macoupin**

**Thursday, June 15, Jersey**

**Thursday, October 19, Christian**

**Thursday, December 14 or 21, Montgomery**

**Adjourn Meeting** –Terry Trader motioned to adjourn at 8:20 pm, Connie Beck seconds. No discussion. Motion passed.

**APPROVED – March 16, 2023**